GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1536
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
AUCTION OF MAHATMA GANDHI`S LETTERS
Masood Shri Rasheed;Ramadass Prof. M;Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government has initiated action for auctioning of the last letter written by Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) if so , the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to procure these letters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(c) No. The British Government did not initiate such action.

However, in a recent instance, the Government of India have procured the manuscripts of an article written by Mahatma Gandhi on January 11, 1948, which were initially slated for auction by the Christies Auction House in London, UK. The manuscripts were handed over to the Navajivan Trust on July 31, 2007 by the President, ICCR. The Navajivan Trust has, in turn, handed these over to Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.